United Nations

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F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ In Presidential statement, Security Council calls on Angolan parties to take "urgent and determined steps" to complete demobilization of remaining Government and UNITA troops and collection and centralized storage of weapons; expresses concern at recent deterioration of political and security situation.

+ Secretary-General to send fact-finding mission to Tajikistan at request from Government.

+ General Assembly President expresses hope that 47th session of the General Assembly will be "a major step towards revitalizing the United Nations; says he is satisfied with United Nations efforts in Yugoslav crisis.

+ General Assembly adopts 144-item agenda for its 47th session.

+ As many as 300,000 Mozambicans may seek asylum in neighbouring Malawi and Zimbabwe by the end of this year, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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In a statement read out today by its President, Jose Ayala Lasso (Ecuador),the Security Council called on the Angolan parties to take "urgent and determined steps to complete the demobilization of the remaining Government and UNITA troops and the collection and centralized storage of weapons".

The Council's action came at a formal meeting today, following its consultations on a further report of the Secretary_General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola (UNAVEM II), in which he urged all the political parties to pledge themselves to respect the results of Angola's first-ever elections scheduled for 29 and 30 September.

In today's statement, Council members also expressed concern at the recent deterioration of the political and security situation in Angola and

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called for the rapid completion of further essential measures, including the formation of the new National Angolan Armed Forces. At the same time, the Council also said it was essential that the police operate as a neutral, national force.

The Council praised the Angolans for their success in attaining the cease-fire and in registering the great majority of the population to vote and endorsed the Secretary-General's appeal to President dos Santos and Dr. Savimbi to ensure that their followers act with restraint and tolerance. The Council said it was encouraged by the reports of decisions reached by the two leaders during talks on 7 September and urged them, in particular, to implement their agreement in principle to the formation of a government of national reconciliation after the elections.

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United Nations Secretary-General's Spokesman yesterday announced that Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali had decided to send a United Nations fact-finding mission, now visiting Tashkent, to Dusanbe, Tajikistan.

The mission, sent at the request of the Government of Tajikistan, will be led by Raymond Sommereyns, Director, Department of Political Affairs.

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General Assembly President, Stoyan Ganev (Bulgaria), said today that there was every reason to hope that the 47th session of the General Assembly would prove to be a major step towards revitalizing the United Nations as "an effective, and user-friendly international mechanism of peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building".

At his first press conference at headquarters today, Mr. Ganev said, regarding Yugoslavia, that he was satisfied with the Organization's handling of the crisis, but stressed that its efforts must be more "effective, more active and more concrete" to resolve the "terrible situation in the Balkans". The mechanism for a successful outcome to the Yugoslav question was created at the London Conference on Yugoslavia, and is presently discussed at the Geneva Conference, he said. He also pointed out that the United Nations could "reach success" not only on the basis of action of the Security Council, but also by including efforts by the General Assembly.

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The General Assembly this morning adopted a 144-item agenda for its forty-seventh session, including a new item on the complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territories of the Baltic States. By doing so, the Assembly followed the recommendation of its General Committee which had submitted such an agenda for the Assembly's consideration last Wednesday.

The 144-item agenda, along with items on the coordination of the activities of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and

Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and on the observer status in the General Assembly for the International Organization for Migration, will be considered directly in plenary. Another new item, concerning international cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery, was allocated to the Second Committee (Economic and Financial).

As in previous years, the question of Cyprus will be allocated at an appropriate time during the session. The Assembly also decided to defer until its next regular session the items regarding the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India, as well as the question of East Timor.

When the Assembly meets again, on Monday, 21 September, it will begin its general debate, scheduled to conclude on 8 October. The Foreign Minister of Brazil is expected to open the general debate, followed by the Presidents of the United States and Nicaragua, and the Foreign Minister of Austria.

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As many as 300,000 Mozambicans may seek asylum in neighbouring Malawi and Zimbabwe by the end of this year, if immediate action is not taken to stem the exodus, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). More than 1.5 million Mozambican refugees have already fled the fighting, famine and drought in their homeland over the past decade, to five southern African nations.

In a press communiqué, the UNHCR stressed that most of the refugees arrived at the already overcrowded camps in Malawi and Zimbabwe, in appalling condition, suffering from diseases such as cholera, measles, pellagra, dysentery and scabies. Mortality rates in the camps run quite high, and hospitals are overcrowded, the Agency reported. In addition, there is a shortage of food and water supply in all the camps.

The flux of refugees has also created some tension locally. In Malawi, for instance, where 69 per cent of the local population depends already on international food aid, the arrival of refugees was expected to fuel anti-refugee feelings. In order to ease the tension, UNHCR has distributed 45,000 metric tons of food from its own stock to the local population.

The communiqué also indicates that UNHCR will need $40 million by the end of the year to care for 300,000 new arrivals in Malawi and Zimbabwe, but concludes that only a political solution enabling food and water to reach needy Mozambicans inside their country could stem the refugee exodus.

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